

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-19 remain pending in the application.

Interview Summary:

A summary of an interview with the Examiner, in accordance with MPEP 713.04, is included herewith. The undersigned contacted the Examiner by telephone on August 29th to inquire about the due date of the response to the present office action. The originally stated due date for the present office action was one month from its mailing date of July 28, 2005. An agreement was reached between the Examiner and the undersigned to change the due date to three months from the mailing date of present office action, in compliance with MPEP 710.02(b), which specifies a shortened statutory period of three months for replying to any office action on the merits. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration in this matter.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Driller, U.S. Patent 5,109,956, in view of Seeger, U.S. Patent 3,861,135. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The prior art does not suggest the desirability of the claimed combinations of features. The teachings of Driller were discussed in a previous office action response. Seeger teaches an electrical interconnector for coupling circuit board terminals or the like to a liquid crystal package, an integrated circuit package or the like and which includes an insulating base member having a plurality of electrically conductive and elastomeric pads each of which extends from one face of the base member along an open channel or between teeth in the wall of the base member and to the opposite face of the base member.

Independent claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

“a plurality of contact pins each configured to convey electrical signals ... wherein one or more of said plurality of contact pins is formed from a pliable resistive material, wherein said pliable resistive material has a resistance value greater than five ohms” (Emphasis added).

Independent claims 8 and 15 recite similar combinations of features.

In the current office action, the Examiner acknowledges that Driller is silent about a pliable resistive material having a resistance value greater than five ohms. The Examiner contends that Seeger discloses an interconnect 40 with a pliable resistive material (45, lines 18-34, column 3 of Seeger) to obtain resistivity independent of contact pressure. The Examiner further contends that it would have therefore been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use pliable resistive material as taught by Seeger as contact pins for Driller to obtain resistivity, independent of the contact pressure, and that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a pliable resistive material having a resistance value greater than five ohms to reduce noise in the circuit and obtain the desired conductivity. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s contentions and thus respectfully disagrees that it would have been obvious to combine Driller and Seeger in order to obtain the claimed combination of features.

In column 4, lines 16-21, Seeger states:

“It has been found in practice that a contact or pad having the lowest resistance is most saleable. Thus, contacts having less than one-half ohm per contact are most preferred, although contacts having an overall resistance between 1 to 1000 ohms per contact are perfectly suitable depending on the application.” (emphasis added).

MPEP 2141.02 states that the prior art must be considered in its entirety, including disclosures that teach away from the claims. Applicant submits that Seeger’s

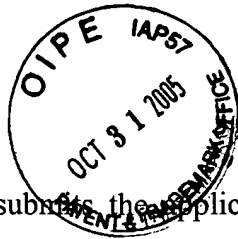
teaching that contacts having less than one-half ohm per contact are most preferred teaches away from the limitation of a contact formed of a pliable resistive material having a resistance value of at least five ohms, as recited in the independent claims. Furthermore, in light of Seeger's teaching that a value of less than one-half ohm per contact is preferred, Applicant submits there is no suggestion to combine Seeger with Driller in order to obtain the claimed combination of features, including those highlighted above.

Furthermore, as noted above, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use pliable resistive material having a resistance value greater than five ohms, since it was known in the art that it would help reduce noise in the circuit and also to obtain desired conductivity in the circuit. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contention.

It is well known in the art that noise in electronic systems may be expressed in terms of voltage. Thus noise, in terms of voltage, can be expressed as a product of noise current and resistance/impedance (that is, $V = I \times R$). Therefore, the noise is directly proportional to resistance, and any lower limit on the resistance value will limit the amount of noise reduction that it possible for a given value of current. It is further noted that, theoretically, all noise could be eliminated by reducing the resistance value to zero ohms. Thus, Applicant submits that one skilled in the art motivated by noise reduction would not limit the resistance to a value greater than five ohms, as such a limitation would limit the amount of noise reduction possible.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the prior art does not suggest the desirability of the combinations of features recited in the independent claims, and therefore, a case of obviousness has not been established. Accordingly, removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION



Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-66200/EAH.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik A. Heter
Reg. No. 50,652
AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

Date: 10/28/05